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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

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Archbishop Cassidy, Deputy Secretary of State in the Vatican, said in Sydney yesterday at a news conference that:

1. the Pope had not been requested to meet Fretilin when he visits East Timor but that such a request would be considered;

2. that the visit should not be interpreted as Papal endorsement of the situation in East Timor but seen as a pastoral visit;

3. that the itinerary has not be finalised;

4. that the Pope could not visit Indonesia without visiting East Timor because of the large Catholic population there.